

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE THIRD WARD

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1945

Location:

Approximately the center of the city and comprising (10) ten election districts.

Population:

<u>ALL RACES</u>		Percent Male	Percent Female
Under 5	1,790	51	49
5-14	4,239	49	51
15-24	4,551	47	53
25-34	4,892	46	54
35 and over	10,391	50	50
Negro	16,385	48	52
TOTAL POPULATION 26,863			
PERCENT NEGRO 63%			

Main Traffic

Arteries:

Springfield Avenue, West Kinney Street, Belmont Avenue, Spruce Street, High Street and Avon Avenue.

Main Traffic

Arteries For

Colored Business:

West Kinney Street, Waverly Avenue and most side streets -- Spruce Street - Hosiery Shop, three eating places, dress shop, shoe shine parlor, laundrette; on Belmont Avenue - a newspaper (New Jersey Herald News), a dance hall (Graham Building), a barber shop, law office, and real estate office.

Schools:

Five grade schools

<u>Name</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Negro</u>	<u>Total</u>
Charlton Street	28	1288	1316
18th Avenue	283	788	1061
Monmouth Street	31	705	736
Morton Street	61	1094	1165
Avon Avenue	1046	142	1188
	1449	4007	5456

According to latest reports approximately 3% of the white students in the ward have been transferred to schools outside of the ward (ages 5 to 12).

Note:

Penet School on Montgomery Street is not included as the children from the entire city attend the same.

Housing:

- * A substantial part of Newark's Population occupies dwellings that are
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below generally accepted minimum standard of health and decency. Of the estimated 118,550 dwelling units existing in Newark in 1945, 38,423 or 30.8 percent either need major repairs or lack private baths, private toilets or private water supply. Negroes occupy 7,897 or 20.5 percent of these sub-standard accommodations. This means that more than one-half of all Negroes in the city live in unhealthful and unwholesome quarters.

Overcrowding

The extent to which overcrowding of dwelling units occurs in the various census tracts of the city. Most health authorities agree that where there are more than 1.5 persons per room in a residence undesirable health and social conditions are likely to exist.

The worst overcrowding takes place in the closely built-up sections of the Third Ward where large families are the rule and there is considerable doubling up. Tuberculosis and other communicable diseases thrive under crowded conditions and are more prevalent in this part of the city than in any other.

Housing-Third Ward

Total Structures	2,037	
Total Dwelling Units.....	7,350	
Percent Owner Occupied.....		3.1%
Percent Vacant.....	One Half of	1%
Percent Over-crowded (1.51 or more per room)..		9%
Percent needing Major Repairs or No Private Bath		54%
Percent Occupied by Negroes.....		70%
Average Monthly Rent.....	\$26.60	

Employment:

The rate among World War II Veteran males 20 to 44 years of age in the labor force (Negro) is three times as great as the rate among other male civilians. This is due to the fact many of them have only recently entered the labor market (52-20 Club) and others are still looking for jobs.

About 20% of the Negro population of the ward is unemployed.

Birth Rate Per 1,000 Persons in the Ward

Rate 15.9

Births 961

In comparing the birth rates of the ward population it is necessary to make adjustments for differences in age, sex, and marital status. Otherwise an incorrect picture is obtained.

In our study the number of births in the ward were obtained from the records of Vital Statistics Division of the Health Department of the City of Newark.

From this it cannot be inferred that housing alone accounts for higher birth rates in the ward, since the birth rate is dependent upon many factors -- economic conditions, security, religious beliefs and lack of knowledge.

Infant Mortality
Rates Per 1,000 Births:

Rates	Deaths	Births
54.5%	75%	1,245

The number of births and infant deaths (under one year) used to determine the infant mortality rates, were obtained by examining the records of the Vital Statistics Department of Health.

Communicable Diseases
Per 1,000 Under 15 Years:

Rates	Cases
246.0	3,000

The following communicable diseases of children were studied: whooping cough, chicken pox, measles, scarlet fever, mumps and German measles. The rates were adjusted for the population under fifteen years of age because a much larger percentage of the ward's population consists of children.

- I. For example 21% of the population of the city falls into that age group.

Tuberculosis Morbidity
Rates in the Third Ward:

Rates Per 10,000 persons	Rate
98 cases	49.8%

We found, as have many before us, that the tuberculosis rate was much higher among the Negroes of the Third Ward than among the white population of the same Ward. This is true because the Negroes occupy the lowest economic stratum with concomitant overcrowding and poor housing, inadequate malnutrition and lack of education. (1) This would partially explain the difference, but in our study the housing and economic conditions of both rehoused groups, Negro and white, were pretty much the same, and nevertheless a differential. Tuberculosis is essentially an urban disease.

Its ravages among the white urban population have resulted over many generations in the elimination of those most susceptible to it, and in a partial immunity. The majority of the Negro population, however, has only become urbanized recently and every year Negro migrants flock to the cities where they live under the most miserable conditions. (2)

Fatal Home Accidents
In Third Ward Among Negroes:

Rate 3.2

*These accidents are largely due to faulty conditions of the homes. The National Health Survey reveals that "home accidents increase heavily as the value of the home decreases.

- (1) Lees, Op. Cit., P. 19
- (2) There are out of every four American Negroes now living in industrial towns and cities, according to Harry L. Binsse in "A Place to Lay Your Head."

* Housing and Community Vo. VIII 1942

Fires in The Third Ward:

Fires	Rate
52	4.1%

Because of unsuccessful effort to secure an official report, it is estimated that one fire per week is the average of the ward.

Causes:

Oil Stoves and etc., used for heating and cooking.

Delinquency and Crime In the Third Ward:

The problem of delinquency and crime is a complex one, and any explanation in terms of a single factor cannot be adequate.

Juveniles on probation - 961
Adults on probation - 2,128

For the most part, the delinquency rate is always highest in the areas where housing is the least adequate. Crime flourishes in congested homes and areas, where there is no room to preserve the amenities. We could continue indefinitely, but the general conclusion of this report would still be that inadequate housing, segregation, discrimination and the denial of first class citizenship are phenomena related to delinquency.

Private Agencies Promoting Better Relations In the Ward:

The Friendly Neighborhood House, The Boy's Club, the New Jersey Urban League, Jewish Community Relations Commission, The Prince Merchant Association, The Springfield Avenue Merchant Association, The People's Welfare Association and the Colored Branches of the Y.W.C.A. & Y.M.C.A.

Source:

The Central Planning
Board of Newark,
New Jersey

Based on 1940 Census

1945?